Marks and Spencer is a widespread corporation that dates back to 1884. Marks and Spencers, colloquially known as M&S, was founded by Michael marks and Thomas Spencer in Leeds, England. Since then the headquarters have moved to Westminster. M&S currently has over 1000 stores in 40 countries and employs more than 76,250 people worldwide. Marks and Spencer generally come across as a very grounded, clean and trustworthy ‘family’. People tend to trust Marks and Spencer more than the other British retailers (notice how in their logo it’s ‘your’ m&s). Their vision is to be the standard against which all others are measured. Their mission statement is to make aspirational quality available to all while their values include ensuring they meet the customers’ needs with appealing, superior quality products at attractive prices. If you look deeper at their advertisement and even their website you can tell that they are quite lookist and by using their adverts they make you more self-conscious about your weight and appearance. Then they advertise low fat products and meals with lots of fruit and vegetables and happy slim people to motivate you. Their advertising ploy obviously works otherwise they wouldn’t be so successful.

From 2010 their revenue (the amount of money that they actually receive) they made 9.5 billion pounds. Revenue is calculated by multiplying the price at which goods and services are sold by the number of units or amount sold. Marks and Spencer’s operating income (the amount of profit from the business’s operation after taking out expenses such as wages) is 852 million pounds. Their profit (which is the money a business makes after accounting for all expenses) is 523 million pounds. Earning profit is every business’ goal.

Unfortunately there have been a few allegations made on several occasions over the past two decades. Another unsettling thing about M&S is that they seem to cover their tracks fairly well. I understand that paying people below the legal wage but at least the people are earning money. No allegations have been made where M&S have been violent to the workers in the sweatshops.When an allegation is made they pull up their socks for a year or so, but so far nothing has been done about the allegations since Marks and Spencer don’t admit or confirm anything.

Marks and spencer do plan to do something to better the environment and lifestyle conditions for everyone. In 2007 they launched Plan A. Plan A was put in place to ameliorate the impact that Marks and spencer had on the world. They plan to do this by becoming carbon neutral, sending no waste to landfills, improve the lives in their supply chain and help customers and employees obtain a healthier lifestyle. “help… employees obtain a healthier lifestyle” In a way this is them very slyly confirming the allegations. When Plan A was announced, Marks and Spencer’s shares fell by 18 %. However Marks and Spencer stuck to their guns and announced that it was the “right thing to do”. For this, despite the allegations, I have respect for Marks and Spencers.